



UUJEC Summer Newsletter 2018

Unitarian Universalists for a Just Economic Community

Karla Chew, Editor. Inquiries to: newsletter@uujec.com

New UUJEC Administrator

I am pleased to announce that Christopher Sims is joining UUJEC as our new Administrator. This is an exciting time for UUJEC as we have many programs and initiatives in progress and seek to continue engaging and informing UUs on economic justice issues across the country. Through the generous financial support of the UU Funding Program, Live Oak UU Church and our dedicated membership, we have developed benchmarks and resources we wouldn't have had the capacity to do otherwise. My time in this role as Administrator has been rewarding and challenging and I look forward to our continued collaborations ahead. Christopher and I will work in partnership as he transitions into his new role and I take my place back on the Board of Trustees to commence my first term. Please welcome Christopher to our community! You can reach him via email at uujec@uujec.com.



Christopher is a member of the UU Congregation of the Rock Valley and is a poet, lay minister, and a human rights activist. A Unitarian Universalist for almost 17 years, he's focused on anti-racism, racial equity, and economic injustice. A scholar of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Poor People's Campaign, Christopher leans on history to teach him to inform our present-day struggles. by Rachel Bennett Steury.

Highlights from General Assembly.

Public Witness: Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism (BLUU) hosted the Public Witness event on "Criminal Justice Reform and the Money Bail System" and will be working in partnership with Side with Love and Love Resists for strategic planning ahead. During GA, BLUU facilitated the collection and assembly of 1,000 care packages for local victims of domestic violence.

Actions of Immediate Witness (AIWs): Eight AIWs were proposed and six were voted upon. three passed

1. End Family Separation and Detention of Asylum Seekers and Abolish ICE
2. We Are All Related: Solidarity NOW with Indigenous Water Protectors
3. Dismantle Predatory Medical Care Practices in Prisons and End Prisons for Profit

Ware Lecture: Activist, educator and organizer Brittany Packnett was our Ware Lecturer. A former teacher, policy expert, and nonprofit executive director, she was cited by President Barack Obama as a leader whose "voice is going to be making a difference for years to come." Brittany is an unapologetic organizer, writer, and speaker.

A handful of members of the Westboro Baptist Church showed up one afternoon to protest GA, and they were met by more than 50 UUs with guitars, "Love Thy Neighbor" signs and megaphones. As the good Dr. King once said, "Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."

Next year GA will be in Spokane, Washington June 19th – 23rd. Please consider participating in person or online!

Upcoming Northwest UU Justice Network Event

The UUJEC is happy to share this information about the upcoming Northwest UU Justice Network Event:



This year's Justice Summit is scheduled for Saturday, October 20th, 2018 from 9am to 4pm at Edmonds UU Congregation.

The theme of this year's summit is Evolving for Justice. Together we will ready ourselves for legislative advocacy and action. We'll build new individual and collective skills to recognize and address systems of oppression. We'll help develop and launch a reinvented action network, JUJustice Washington – an evolution of UU Voices for Justice Washington and Northwest UU Justice Network.

In the afternoon, we'll gather for extended working sessions on the issues that matter most to each and all of us: Antiracism, Climate Crisis, Economic Justice, First / American Indian Nations, and Immigration.

We'll also spotlight several worthy congregation-based justice programs that are finding success. To register or learn more about this event, visit this link: <https://bit.ly/2OMs7S2>.

Submitted by Christopher D. Sims, Incoming Administrator for UUJEC.

NOMINATIONS For UUJEC BOARD

UUJEC Board will be soliciting nominations to be on our board for a one-year or three-year, renewable term beginning in January. We meet monthly for a video-conference using the ZOOM platform, currently on the second Monday of each month at 6 pm Eastern time. Please send your nominations to Terry Lowman (terryleelowman@gmail.com)

Sustainable Leadership for Social Change



Engaging emerging and existing justice leaders in creative, action oriented, sustainable spirit-centered movement, social justice and coalition building.

This is no time to be casual in our faith and justice work. We are in a time of change, and we need to have trained leaders in our communities.

The new Sustainable Leadership for Social Change certificate program begins this November at the Rowe Center. This program is geared to train new social activists, to explore how we sustain this work, and to support those already immersed in the work of justice. We will emphasize coalition and fusion work, sustainability, adaptability, healthy group decision making and collaborative leadership. India Harris, Assistant Director, india@rowecenter.org.

A two-year certificate program with two weekend workshops and two week-long intensives each year. (Nov. 11-16, 2018 & May 5-10, 2019, Fall 2019 & Spring 2020 TBD)

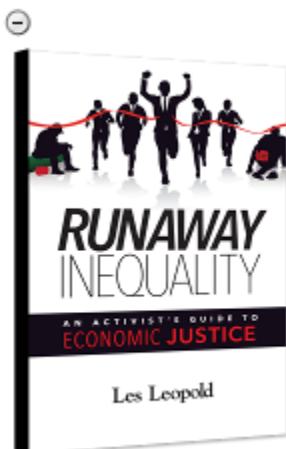
Find out more:

The Rowe Camp and Conference Center
22 Kings Highway, P.O. Box 273
Rowe, MA 01367
www.rowecenter.org or (413) 339-4954

C. Nancy Reid-McKee, MDiv, Director,
nancy@rowecenter.org

Book Review:

"Runaway Inequality" by Les Leopold



Most persons who visit this web page have read one or more books on income inequality. *Runaway Inequality*, by reporter and educator Les Leopold, demonstrates the ideas that most such books do (e.g., that income inequality harms most Americans). It's remarkable for making two additional points:

- (1) That domination of our economy by the financial sector consists in "strip mining" that destroys important resources. An interesting detail of this argument is that this financialization constitutes a huge tax (36.8% of private profit in 2012) on everything that happens in our society.
- (2) That progressives have little or no chance of winning on any issue if we don't unify to break the power of the very rich. This unity requires establishment of a national education program. Mr. Leopold is working with the Work Environment Council on that program right now.

Review by Kit Marlowe

Evanston Conference Report

A conference on responding to income inequality was held on April 21 at the Evanston Unitarian Church and co-sponsored by UUJEC and the Evanston church. The event, titled "Insist on Justice! Resist Inequality," was attended by UU activists from three states and more than ten different congregations. Those who attended discussed how to use legislative and direct action to combat the income gap.

Chuck Collins, author of the book *Born on Third Base* and Senior Scholar at the Institute for Policy

Evanston Conference (continued)



Studies, delivered the keynote address. Collins talked about ways current tax policy favors the wealthy and the middle class and how we can work to redress the balance to favor those most in need. Further tax and budget analysis was provided by Ralph Martire of the Center for Tax and Budget Accountability. He urged his listeners to support fair taxation and an end to excessive state borrowing. The perspective of immigrants, racial minorities and the formerly incarcerated was provided by Fred Tsao of the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, Dr. Fannie Rushing of the SNCC History Project, and Alan Mills of the Uptown People's Law Center.



At lunchtime, participants met at tables organized by subject matter so those interested in health care issues, electoral action or racial equity, etc. could meet with other activists concerned about the same topic. According to comments made after the event, attendees left the conference with plans to lobby their legislators, organize their congregations, and take part in more local justice-building activities.

Submitted by UUJEC Jane Bannor

UUJEC Webinar Series:

**Held the Second Thursday of Every Month @
8p.m. Eastern**

Next up: Too Many Bankers, Thursday Sept. 13

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or

Android: <https://zoom.us/j/697749178>

Or Dial: 646 558 8656 or +1 669 900 6833

Meeting ID: 697 749 178

Thursday August 9th, @ 8pm Eastern time.

Medicare for All Calculator, with Kris Hardy



Kris Hardy, the creator of the Medicare for All calculator, presented on the use of his newly developed tool. It was developed to demonstrate how a proposed funding mechanism for universal health care will save 90-95% of

the population's money on health care spending. The calculator is based on H.R. 676, the Medicare for All Act, which is sponsored by Congressman Keith Ellison and currently has 123 sponsors in the US House of Representatives.

UUJEC Economic Justice Leadership Award

This year's Economic Justice Leadership Award goes to the Evanston Unitarian Church in Evanston, IL. Co-chair of Peace and Justice at Evanston Unitarian Church Jane Bannor's words: "Economic justice activity at the Evanston Unitarian Church is vibrant and varied. We are organized into a number of separate task forces. Our Inequality task force has held educational sessions on the corrupting influence of Money in Politics and on the danger of growing Income Inequality. In April of this year the group co-sponsored a conference with UUJEC

What we do: UUJEC strives to create a world of justice, equity, and compassion where the inherent worth and dignity of every person is recognized and affirmed as set forth in our Unitarian Universalist Principles.

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titled "Insist on Justice! Resist Inequality!" UUs from across the Midwest joined us to learn about the ramifications of the growing US income gap how we can improve our skills as activists to



confront it. Again, from Jane Bannor, "We feel we're beginning to be seen as a major force for social and economic justice within our community. UUJEC is proud to present the Economic Justice Leadership Award to the Evanston Unitarian Church. Congratulations! You can learn more about other recipients here: uujec.com/ejs.

Submitted by Christopher Sims

Save the Date

Sunday September 9th 2-4 pm

A Bedford Lyceum event at First Parish Unitarian

Universalist Bedford

75 The Great Rd. Bedford MA

In Conversation with Chuck Collins

Story teller, researcher, author, and economic justice activist.